

FORM NO. 51-4AA
FEB 1952

INTELLOFAX 25

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 1 May 1952

SUBJECT VARIMEX Trading Company Imports

NO. OF PAGES 4

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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The following is an account of the purchase plan for 1952 and past acquisitions of the VARIMEX medical office. As previously reported, purchases from foreign countries are theoretically to be camouflaged so that they do not reveal the true Polish import plan, a rule which is not strictly observed in practice.

The Total Purchases

1. The value of the annual purchase schedules for surgical instruments, dental equipment, veterinary supplies and X-ray machines amounted to 3.5 million dollars in 1949, and to 4.3 million dollars in 1950. These figures included special credit supplements which were granted towards the end of the year. In 1951, 6 million dollars of purchases were divided into 700,000 dollars for veterinary supplies, 800,000 dollars for dental equipment, 1.5 million dollars for electro-medical apparatus (X-ray, etc.) and the rest for surgical instruments.
2. The value of the purchase schedule for 1952, which has already been confirmed, totals 8 million dollars, divided into about 50 percent for surgical instruments, 2 million dollars for X-ray machines, etc., and about 1 million dollars for dental equipment and veterinary supplies. It can generally be said that the dental and veterinary supplies were, percentage-wise, negligible. The largest sums were always allotted for purchases of surgical instruments and electro-medical apparatus.
3. The distribution center for veterinary instruments, which does not belong under CENTROSPPZET, is called CENTROWET with offices located at Ulica Nowgorodzka, corner of ul. Krucza.

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Class. Changed To: TS S (C)

Auth: HB 70.2

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Geographic Distribution of Purchases

4. In 1948 VARIMEX purchases in Iron Curtain countries were still insignificant; Russia delivered nothing. Among the remaining Eastern countries Czechoslovakia ranked first with deliveries totalling one-half million dollars at the most. The deliveries also included X-ray machines bearing the trade marks MECAMETRA and KLINIX, both types believed to be manufactured by the same factory, KOVO. [redacted] there had been any difficulty in obtaining these deliveries in Czechoslovakia, and the machines are therefore believed to be produced in considerable quantities there. Further imports included thermostats, also from KOVO, and hypodermic syringes with needles. In the middle of 1949 the first deliveries from East Germany were received, mostly X-ray tubes, X-ray machines, surgical instruments, operating tables and lamps, and dental drills.
5. The value of Czechoslovakia's 1949 deliveries rose to about 1 million dollars and included the same deliveries as in 1948. The value of the East German deliveries comprised about 700,000 dollars. The value of the collected purchases in all the countries in 1949 amounted to 3.5 million dollars.
6. In January 1950, an Hungarian delegation arrived, with whom an agreement was made for delivery of X-ray machines, hypodermic syringes with needles and blood pressure measurers. Immediate delivery was promised, but the goods were delivered seven to eight months late and were of poor quality. The apparatus functioned unsatisfactorily; the needles were rusty and a large quantity of the hypodermic syringes were worthless.
7. The X-ray machine deliveries included, among others, 32 portable units, which were markedly poor and later had to be repaired by Hungarian experts. The stationary machines, of which 20 were delivered, were of good quality; they were called AUTOHELIOFOS. The value of the 52 apparatuses was about one quarter million dollars.
8. The value of the purchases in Czechoslovakia was reduced from the 1949 volume, as a result of the purchases in Hungary, to about one half million dollars. The commodity list has been expanded though and now also includes "Tomografer" and "faradiseringssapparat". [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
9. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] The surgical instruments from Czechoslovakia were, however, not quite as good; once the Poles had to return a delivery of 30,000 hypodermic syringes. [redacted]
[redacted] Commercially they were also the best trained officials. The deliveries from Hungary and East Germany, on the other hand, were very slow and often up to five months late. All dental equipment is delivered by Czechoslovakia. Deliveries are prompt and there are apparently no difficulties as far as the materials are concerned.
10. The value of the East German deliveries amounts to 800,000 dollars. Included are fewer X-ray machines, but added to the list are certain unspecified surgical instruments, scientific instruments for the universities and clinics (among others Zimmermann in Leipzig) and glasses from Jena.*

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Deliveries from USSR

11. VARIMEX has received a total of 40,000 eyeglass lenses as well as a shipment of catgut, about 60 types of surgical instruments and about 10 types of dental supplies. The total value of all USSR deliveries has not exceeded 100,000 dollars.
- 25X1 12. [redacted] Polish Commercial Section in Moscow, KOREMBA, in the beginning of 1951 to the effect that deliveries from Russia could be expected on those articles listed in a catalogue from the state organization, BAZNO EXPORT. The catalogue included 120 items at the most. About two X-ray machines were ordered by VARIMEX, but the tubes in both of them were useless, and the responsible official in VARIMEX refused to place further orders; it was known from experience that it was hopeless to try to get replacements for such equipment. VARIMEX did not dare, furthermore, express criticism of the Russian X-ray machines. [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 [redacted] the type, however, is designated RUM 4.
13. The Soviet catalogue also included about 80 surgical articles, and VARIMEX ordered various quantities of all types. After some time a Russian draft contract arrived listing in some cases smaller, in others larger quantities than those ordered. This contract was, however, signed by VARIMEX without protest. The Russian offers also included hearing aids, which were subjected to severe criticism by the Polish experts; one of them claimed that it would be necessary to carry the batteries in a separate suitcase. [redacted] 25X1
- 25X1 [redacted] Among the complaints were: the individual parts of the instruments did not fit together and rusted easily, and the glass in the syringes cracked after the second or third sterilization.
14. The catalogue included certain scientific apparatus of a simple type for faradization(sic), caustic lead plates for X-ray examinations, which however were not delivered to Poland.**The film projectors from Russia were called KLEV. They were robust and useful machines. X-ray film was imported exclusively from Western Europe, among others from GEVAERT in Holland. Source states that Iron Curtain countries are designated with the code KDL in internal correspondence and bookkeeping. The capitalistic countries are given the code KK.
15. Present plans do not yet include catgut. The 1951 schedule called for purchases of 2.2 million meters of catgut, of which France delivered 300,000 meters, Hungary 700,000 meters, Rumania 200,000 meters and West Germany considerable quantities. At a conference which took place on 15 September 1951, the Ministry of Health proposed that 7 million meters of catgut be imported. The specialists at VARIMEX agreed that it would be quite impossible to meet this requirement, even by orders from all producing countries in the world. The final quantity to be purchased was not yet determined at the end of 1951. [redacted] the final amount will not exceed 3 million meters.

Polish Production

16. At the end of 1948 Poland intended to purchase 500,000 meters of catgut. In a conference with high authorities this decision was changed for the purpose of developing production of this item in Poland. After a few months VARIMEX nevertheless received an order for the immediate purchase of foreign catgut, as that which had been produced in Poland was not sterile and had led to several deaths. [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted]

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17. Polish industry is also able to produce hypodermic syringes and needles, as well as quite simple instruments like tweezers. Scalpels and scissors are not produced. The work is done by state factories which are designated only by number. [redacted]

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18. Electrical medical equipment has, in certain cases, been repaired by the Polish factory Bracia Szpotansci, located in Meedzylesie No near Warsaw. The same factory produced electric relay apparatus and other electric equipment. This factory has started various experiments not otherwise identified [redacted]

19. [redacted] Even before the war, there was only one small firm which produced such things. Artificial teeth of mediocre quality have been produced for a short time by Poland in Zabrze in Silesia.

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* [redacted] Comment: A small delegation, consisting of (fnu) Janowica from the Ministry of Health, a physician, (fnu) Rotman, from the Ministry of Public Security, and an unnamed lady, went to Berlin in the fall of 1950 and endeavored to buy large quantities of surgical instruments. The result of the trip was supposedly negative. [redacted]

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** [redacted] Comment: The word faradization may have reference to one of Faraday's electrolytic decomposition laws.

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